

West India Dock Road,

London <sup>10<sup>th</sup></sup> October 1867

E.

266  
William Lloyd Garrison Esq.

Sir

Pardon my troubling you on the following matter. I am exceedingly anxious to go to America, and for this reason - that I want to work myself up to a respectable position in Society, and that, I think I ~~can~~ would have more opportunity of doing in America than in this country. I flatter myself however that the drive to work myself up in the world proceeds from no such motives as merely the base love of money but from other and worthier motives. Now Sir the birth I have at present is a very good and comfortable one, but I see not prospect of rising to any position much better than my present one were I to remain here all my life. Apart from this altogether however, I have long felt a yearning towards America and sh<sup>d</sup> much like to settle there, but as I have no friends there, nor any prospect of work on my arrival (not being a mechanic) I should like if possible to get something to go to. Could you offer me anything? I have



Am in my present situation 5 years, and that  
fact alone will speak for my character.  
As I believe you belong to the Society of Friends  
I may just mention that I am personally  
known to a few members of that body.

I sh<sup>d</sup> much like to have a few <sup>minutes</sup>  
speech with you when I could explain better  
verbally, my wishes, and if you will <sup>Robert Ferguson</sup>  
me a line giving me liberty to call on you <sup>London, Oct. 18,</sup>  
and appointing a time. - <sup>Drop 1867.</sup>

Yours much obliged

Yours respectfully

Robert Ferguson.

H. B. Allow me to assure you, in  
words that you yourself made use of  
on a memorable occasion, that "I am  
in earnest" in this matter. I am 20  
years of age - am a native of Scotland.  
Sincerely trust you will grant me the  
desired interview, for tho' you may not  
be able to offer me any situation you will  
perhaps have no objection to give me a  
little advice as to the course I ought to  
pursue, sh<sup>d</sup> I determine to go out at  
all risks.

RF